



LINCOLN CHAFEE U.S. SENATOR RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE SECURES \$500,000 FOR NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today that the Narragansett Indian Tribe has been awarded a \$500,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant, to be applied to the tribe's Health Care Facility Replacement Project. Distributed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the award comes at the request of the tribe and Senator Chafee to supplement the Small Ambulatory Program grant that the tribe was awarded in October 2003. All funds will be used for the construction of a new health care center.

"For many years, I have been working with Chief Thomas and other members of the Narragansett Indian Tribe on various projects, including support for a new health care center," Senator Chafee said. "The Health Care Facility Replacement Project is critical to make certain each member of this growing tribe receives care that is on the cutting-edge of medical technology. I will continue to meet with tribe members and petition government officials to ensure that funds continue to be allocated until this project reaches completion," he continued.

"On behalf of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, I would like to first thank Senator Chafee for helping us to achieve this long sought goal and I would also request his continued support for this project," said Matthew Thomas, Chief Sachem of the Narragansett Indian Tribe.

The Health Care Facility Replacement Project has been undertaken in response to current and growing tribal healthcare needs. The current facility is inadequate to meet these needs, and a new facility 18,045 square feet in size is to be constructed. To avoid the need to complete the construction in phases, a situation that will only serve to increase the overall cost, the tribe is making every effort to secure all funds necessary before moving forward with the construction. The tribe is still in the process of securing these

funds, and with this most recent award has accumulated \$2.3 million. Another \$1.5 million is necessary to construct core components.

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